

1 **CLAIMS**

2 What is claimed is:

3  
4 1. A method for use in a multiple user computing environment logon  
5 user interface, the method comprising:

6 creating a separate desktop thread for each user that is authenticated;  
7 creating a separate desktop associated with each desktop thread; and  
8 maintaining a list of desktop threads that are created.

9  
10 2. The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:  
11 establishing a separate user environment associated with each desktop.

12  
13 3. The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:  
14 launching a separate user shell associated with each desktop.

15  
16 4. The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:  
17 selectively switching from a first desktop to a second desktop without  
18 terminating a desktop thread associated with the first desktop.

19  
20 5. The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:  
21 automatically switching from a first desktop to a second desktop without  
22 terminating a desktop thread associated with the first desktop launching a separate  
23 user shell associated with each desktop.

1           6. The method as recited in claim 5, wherein automatically switching from  
2 a first desktop to a second desktop occurs following a defined period of user  
3 inactivity.

4  
5           7. The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:  
6 selectively removing a desktop thread from the list of desktop threads when  
7 a user logs off.

8  
9           8. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable  
10 instructions for performing steps comprising:  
11 creating a separate desktop thread for each user that is authenticated;  
12 creating a separate desktop associated with each desktop thread; and  
13 maintaining a list of desktop threads that are created.

14  
15           9. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8, having further  
16 computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:  
17 establishing a separate user environment associated with each desktop.

18  
19           10. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8, having further  
20 computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:  
21 launching a separate user shell associated with each desktop.

22  
23           11. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8, having further  
24 computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:  
25

1 selectively switching from a first desktop to a second desktop without  
2 terminating a desktop thread associated with the first desktop.

3  
4 12. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8, having further  
5 computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:

6 automatically switching from a first desktop to a second desktop without  
7 terminating a desktop thread associated with the first desktop launching a separate  
8 user shell associated with each desktop.

9  
10 13. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 12, wherein  
11 automatically switching from a first desktop to a second desktop occurs following  
12 a defined period of user inactivity.

13  
14 14. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8, having further  
15 computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:

16 selectively removing a desktop thread from the list of desktop threads when  
17 a user logs off.

18  
19 15. An arrangement comprising:

20 memory having at least a portion of an operating system stored therein;

21 a processor operatively coupled to the memory and responsive to the  
22 operating system to create a separate desktop thread for each user that is  
23 authenticated during a logon process, create a separate desktop associated with  
24 each desktop thread, and maintain a list of desktop threads that are created.  
25

1        16. The arrangement as recited in Claim 15, wherein the processor is  
2 further responsive to the operating system by establishing a separate user  
3 environment associated with each desktop.

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5        17. The arrangement as recited in Claim 15, wherein the processor is  
6 further responsive to the operating system by launching a separate user shell  
7 associated with each desktop.

8  
9        18. The arrangement as recited in Claim 15, wherein the processor is  
10 further responsive to the operating system by selectively switching from a first  
11 desktop to a second desktop without terminating a desktop thread associated with  
12 the first desktop.

13  
14        19. The arrangement as recited in Claim 15, wherein the processor is  
15 further responsive to the operating system by automatically switching from a first  
16 desktop to a second desktop without terminating a desktop thread associated with  
17 the first desktop launching a separate user shell associated with each desktop.

18  
19        20. The arrangement as recited in claim 19, wherein automatically  
20 switching from a first desktop to a second desktop occurs following a defined  
21 period of user inactivity.

22  
23        21. The arrangement as recited in Claim 15, wherein the processor is  
24 further responsive to the operating system by selectively removing a desktop  
25 thread from the list of desktop threads when a user logs off.

1        22. A method for use in a multiple user computing environment logon  
2 user interface, the method comprising:

3        creating a separate remote process thread for each user that is authenticated;  
4        creating a separate remote process associated with each remote process  
5 thread; and  
6        maintaining a list of remote process threads that are created.

7  
8        23. The method as recited in Claim 22, further comprising:  
9        establishing a separate user environment associated with each remote  
10 process.

11  
12        24. The method as recited in Claim 22, further comprising:  
13        launching a separate user shell associated with each remote process.

14  
15        25. The method as recited in Claim 22, further comprising:  
16        selectively switching from a first remote process to a second remote  
17 process without terminating a remote process thread associated with the first  
18 remote process.

19  
20        26. The method as recited in Claim 22, further comprising:  
21        automatically switching from a first remote process to a second remote  
22 process without terminating a remote process thread associated with the first  
23 remote process launching a separate user shell associated with each remote  
24 process.

1        27. The method as recited in claim 26, wherein automatically switching  
2 from a first remote process to a second remote process occurs following a defined  
3 period of user inactivity.

4  
5        28. The method as recited in Claim 22, further comprising:  
6 selectively removing a remote process thread from the list of remote  
7 process threads when a user logs off.

8  
9        29. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable  
10 instructions for performing steps comprising:

11        creating a separate remote process thread for each user that is authenticated;  
12        creating a separate remote process associated with each remote process  
13 thread; and  
14        maintaining a list of remote process threads that are created.

15  
16        30. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 29, having  
17 further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:

18        establishing a separate user environment associated with each remote  
19 process.

20  
21        31. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 29, having  
22 further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:

23        launching a separate user shell associated with each remote process.  
24  
25

1        32. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 29, having  
2 further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:

3        selectively switching from a first remote process to a second remote  
4 process without terminating a remote process thread associated with the first  
5 remote process.  
6

7        33. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 29, having  
8 further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:

9        automatically switching from a first remote process to a second remote  
10 process without terminating a remote process thread associated with the first  
11 remote process launching a separate user shell associated with each remote  
12 process.  
13

14        34. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 33, wherein  
15 automatically switching from a first remote process to a second remote process  
16 occurs following a defined period of user inactivity.  
17

18        35. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 29, having  
19 further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:

20        selectively removing a remote process thread from the list of remote  
21 process threads when a user logs off.  
22

23        36. An arrangement comprising:

24        memory having at least a portion of an operating system stored therein;  
25

1 a processor operatively coupled to the memory and responsive to the  
2 operating system to create a separate remote process thread for each user that is  
3 authenticated during a logon process, create a separate remote process associated  
4 with each remote process thread, and maintain a list of remote process threads that  
5 are created.

6  
7 37. The arrangement as recited in Claim 36, wherein the processor is  
8 further responsive to the operating system by establishing a separate user  
9 environment associated with each remote process.

10  
11 38. The arrangement as recited in Claim 36, wherein the processor is  
12 further responsive to the operating system by launching a separate user shell  
13 associated with each remote process.

14  
15 39. The arrangement as recited in Claim 36, wherein the processor is  
16 further responsive to the operating system by selectively switching from a first  
17 remote process to a second remote process without terminating a remote process  
18 thread associated with the first remote process.

19  
20 40. The arrangement as recited in Claim 36, wherein the processor is  
21 further responsive to the operating system by automatically switching from a first  
22 remote process to a second remote process without terminating a remote process  
23 thread associated with the first remote process launching a separate user shell  
24 associated with each remote process.



1        41. The arrangement as recited in claim 40, wherein automatically  
2 switching from a first remote process to a second remote process occurs following  
3 a defined period of user inactivity.

4  
5        42. The arrangement as recited in Claim 36, wherein the processor is  
6 further responsive to the operating system by selectively removing a remote  
7 process thread from the list of remote process threads when a user logs off.